VMware and NetApp Deliver High-Performance Virtual Desktops as a Service (DaaS)

AT A GLANCE

"VMware has a deep understanding of the technologies required for a compelling DaaS solution. The combined strengths of NetApp storage solutions with Desktone's [now VMware] cloud-hosted VDI technology provide a highly efficient offering for service providers, which is optimized for performance and ROI."

Julie Parrish, CMO, NetApp

NaviSite: "When adding cloud-based virtual desktops to the NaviCloud solution set, we wanted to ensure we could provide the flexibility and performance our customers demand. Traditional virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) solutions did not meet our enterprise-class criteria for cloud delivery. With VMware we have a multi-tenant virtual desktop solution that delivers an elastic, scalable and secure DaaS environment."

Quest: "We evaluated traditional virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) vendors but realized they are missing many of the features required by service providers. With VMware's DaaS expertise and NetApp's extensive storage technologies we're able to quickly provide our customers with flexible, secure virtual desktops whenever and wherever they are needed.

KEY BENEFITS

The VMware Horizon DaaS Platform leverages NetApp technology to deliver a turnkey virtual workspace, including:

• No upfront capital costs
• Access to Windows desktops and applications from anywhere on any device
• Simple cloud-based OPEX deployment
• Ultimate flexibility – deploy desktops and applications in minutes

The Challenges of BYOD

Desktops as we know them are changing: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), mobility, remote workers, and Windows 7 migrations present tough challenges for businesses of all sizes. IT professionals are struggling to manage access, security, storage and performance on a variety of devices outside the corporate network while keeping infrastructure costs down.

Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) looked to be a promising solution for the "post-PC" era, but due to infrastructure requirements and CapEx costs, VDI is prohibitive for many who wanted to take the first step towards desktop virtualization. Service providers need a platform to deliver virtual desktops to IT professionals and their end users that are affordable, easy to manage and flexible enough to scale with organizations' changing needs. And, IT pros need to be sure that the virtual desktops deployed have the same high level of performance and security that they expect from PCs but on any device an end user wants – including iPads, iPhones, Android and MacBooks.

Technologies Joining Forces

VMware has been out ahead of the consumerization of IT trend from its inception, most recently using the power of the cloud to enable service providers to deliver Desktops as a Service (DaaS). Built from day one for Service Providers and cloud delivery, VMware's Horizon™ DaaS® Platform makes it easy for service providers to deliver anytime/anywhere access to desktops and applications without the cost and in-house expertise requirements of VDI. Dozens of service providers around the globe have turned to VMware to provide cost-effective virtual desktops.

One of the reasons behind VMware's Horizon DaaS Platform success is the company's partnership with NetApp, a leading provider of storage and data management solutions. The multi-tenant VMware Horizon DaaS Platform, the industry's only virtual desktop solution built from the ground up for delivering DaaS, leverages innovative NetApp storage technologies to optimize desktop performance. The flexibility and affordability of DaaS combined with the efficiency of NetApp storage delivers the most cost-effective and easy to deploy virtual desktops in the market.

What's Under the Hood

The VMware Horizon DaaS Platform is the industry's only solution for delivering virtual desktops offered as an outsourced, cloud subscription service. DaaS makes it simple to provision desktops for any device in just minutes, easing IT burdens and reducing the total cost of ownership while ensuring superior end-user performance. The platform's multi-tenant architecture also makes it simple to scale with end user needs while keeping customer data secure.

VMware and NetApp work closely so that customers leveraging DaaS can take advantage of this multi-tenancy, scalability, integrated data protection and storage capabilities to achieve greater flexibility and efficiency in their IT environments. There are several NetApp components incorporated into VMware's Horizon DaaS Platform:

• NetApp FlexClone® enables service providers to quickly create new virtual desktops in just minutes by instantly replicating data volumes and data sets without requiring additional storage space.

• NetApp Flash Cache technology speeds access to data through intelligent caching of recently read user data and NetApp metadata, increasing I/O throughput and ensuring high performance even during peak times.

• NetApp OnCommand® data management software improves storage and service efficiency through functions that help service providers control, automate and analyze shared storage infrastructure in order to optimize storage utilization, meet SLAs, minimize risk and boost performance.

The VMware Horizon DaaS Platform featuring NetApp technologies ensures that desktops are always available and latency is minimized, so that customers achieve the best possible hosted virtual desktop experience to achieve business success.

Results

The largest barrier to wide-scale adoption of traditional VDI has been cost and complexity. DaaS simplifies virtual desktops by drastically reducing cost and simplifying deployment. Delivering desktops via the cloud makes it easy for service providers to provision and manage increasingly complex end-user environments, cutting organizational costs while providing seamless accessibility to desktop applications and data on-demand.

When combined with NetApp storage technology, DaaS enables service providers to deliver cost-effective, full-featured virtual desktops with superior performance on any device. This level of flexibility helps businesses become more agile by providing an easy-to-use virtual desktop platform that can meet the changing demands of a mobile workforce while reducing IT costs.

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